

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	The Pyoktong POW Camp	DATE DISTR.	15 June 1953
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DATE OF INFO.	February 1953, except as stated	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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SOURCE:

1. On 15 February 1953 the Pyoktong (N 40-38, E 125-26) (YF-0600) POW Camp was comprised of a United Nations POW camp in 20 grass-roofed houses and 10 stone houses at YE-059993, and a ROK army POW camp in 30 grass-roofed houses, 15 stone houses, and 5 Korean tile-roofed houses at YE-063992. The United Nations POW camp had approximately 1,000 prisoners, mostly Americans, and the ROK army POW camp had approximately 200 officers, 1,600 enlisted men, and 200 civilians. The camp was under the control of a joint Chinese Communist and North Korean army unit which was headed by a Chinese Communist officer.
2. The United Nations prisoners were guarded by 80 Chinese Communist troops, and the ROK POW's were guarded by 70 North Korean army troops. The guards were armed with automatic rifles, PPSh's, and old Japanese army rifles. The camp was not enclosed with barbed wire, but had 17 guard posts, spaced 50 meters apart, surrounding the camp with the exception of the northwest section which bordered on the Yalu River. Thirty guards were on duty at all times, and each guard served three 2-hour shifts each day. One officer and two enlisted men patrolled the camp twice during the day and once every hour at night. Three rifles were fired to summon all the guards in event of trouble.
3. Until November 1951 each United Nations POW received 300 grams of soy beans and 300 grams of corn, and each ROK POW received 300 grams of millet and 300 grams of corn per day. Since December 1951 the POW's have been receiving 700 grams of grain, and corn was replaced with wheat flour for the United Nations POW's because of poor digestion and malnutrition. Four POW's and two guards pick up the grain which was issued every 10 days. Every 15 days, four sung² of salt and 50 kilograms of turnips, radishes, and dried vegetables, were allotted to groups of 50 prisoners. The POW's gathered fire wood for cooking purposes in the mountains once a week. The rest of the week was spent in indoctrination lessons and drills. Every other day, music and stag dancing parties were held for recreation.

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4. In February 1953 there were no medical facilities available at the camp. An average of 80 ROK and 50 United Nations prisoners became ill each day. Approximately 4 POW's died each day, and the death rate of the United Nations POW's was 2 percent higher than that of the ROK POW's. The dead were buried in the Pyoktong county cemetery. A breakdown of the sick personnel was as follows: of the ROK POW's, 10 percent had typhoid, 70 percent had diarrhea, and 20 percent had other diseases; of the United Nations POW's, 5 percent had typhoid, 80 percent had diarrhea, and 15 percent had other diseases.
5. Sixty percent of the United Nations POW's wore Chinese-made khaki cotton clothes and 40 percent were still wearing their old clothes. Eighty percent of the ROK POW's wore Chinese-made cotton clothes and 20 percent were still wearing their old clothes. The cotton clothes were only issued whenever old uniforms were worn out. All of the POW's wore straw shoes. Contact between the ROK and United Nations prisoners is strictly prohibited. Feeling between the guards and the ROK POW's was good, but the guards and United Nations POW's looked down on each other.
6. The daily routine of the camp was as follows: reveille at 0600 hours, roll call at 0630 hours, breakfast at 0700 hours, indoctrination lessons from 0800 to 1200 hours, lunch from 1200 to 1300 hours, indoctrination lessons from 1400 to 1500 hours, recreation from 1500 to 1700 hours, free hour from 1700 to 1800 hours, dinner from 1800 to 1900 hours, self-criticism from 1900 to 2000 hours, free hours from 2000 to 2200 hours, and taps at 2200 hours. The indoctrination lessons consisted of world and Korean political affairs, and Marxism. Five to 10 percent of the ROK POW's have been converted to Communism, and 2 percent of the United Nations POW's have become Communists.

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1. Comment. For previous reports on the Pyoktong POW camp,

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2. Comment. One sung is equivalent to 1.8 liters.

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